

Blanche Ketene Bruce for auditor

According to this article from the Topeka Daily Capital, B. K. (Blanche Ketene) Bruce Jr. was given a place on the Republican ticket and ran for state auditor in 1892. Bruce, a black man from Leavenworth, became the first African American to graduate from Kansas State University in 1885. One important reason Bruce was considered to be such a good candidate for the position of state auditor, was because he was a black Republican in every sense of the word. Between the years of 1880-1900 blacks felt their political interests did not differ too greatly from white political interest or well being. African American males were placed on political party tickets and ran successfully for elective offices in Kansas during this time.

Creator: Topeka Daily Capital

Date: October 26, 1892

Callnumber: K 329.6 V.4

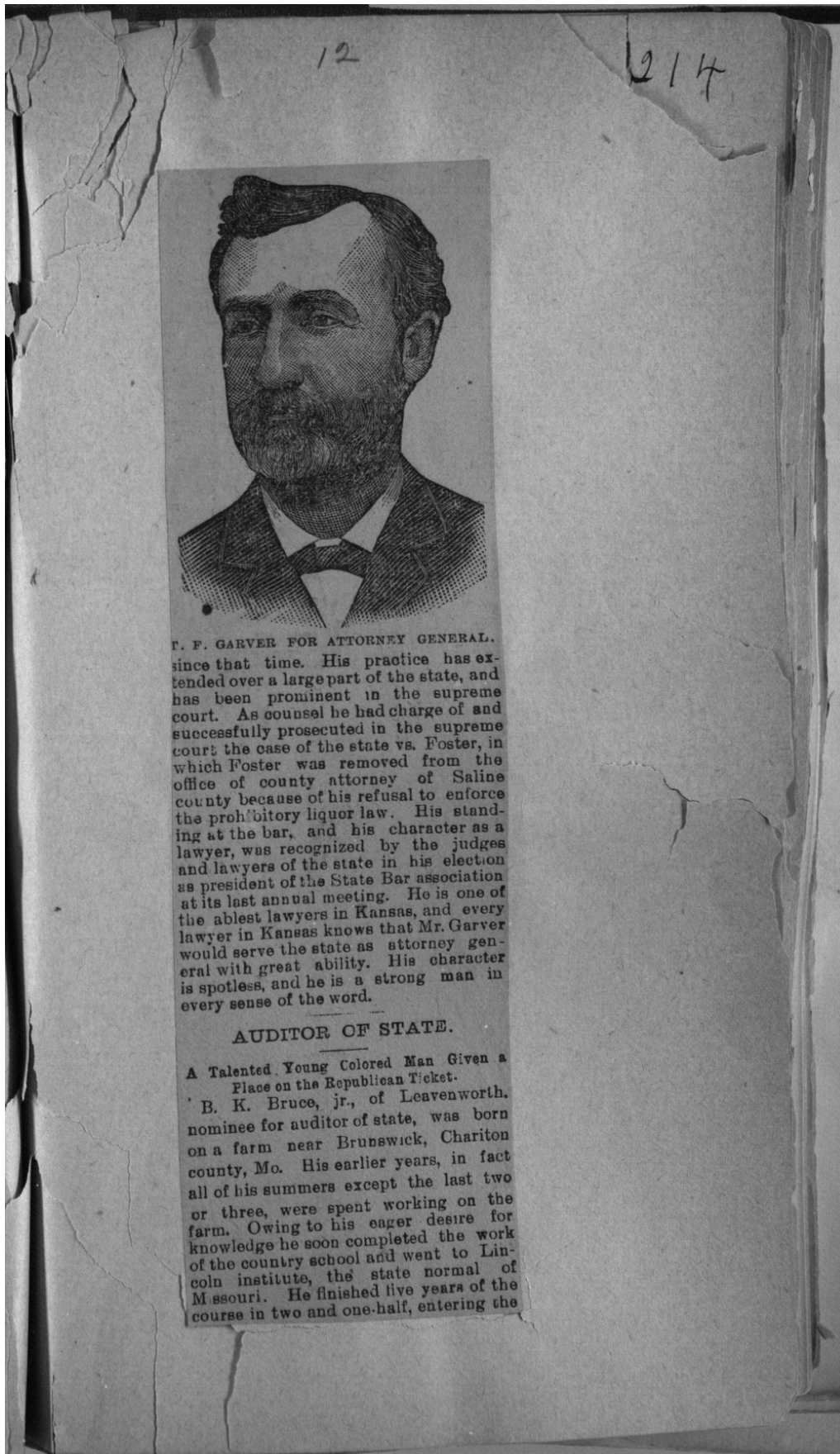
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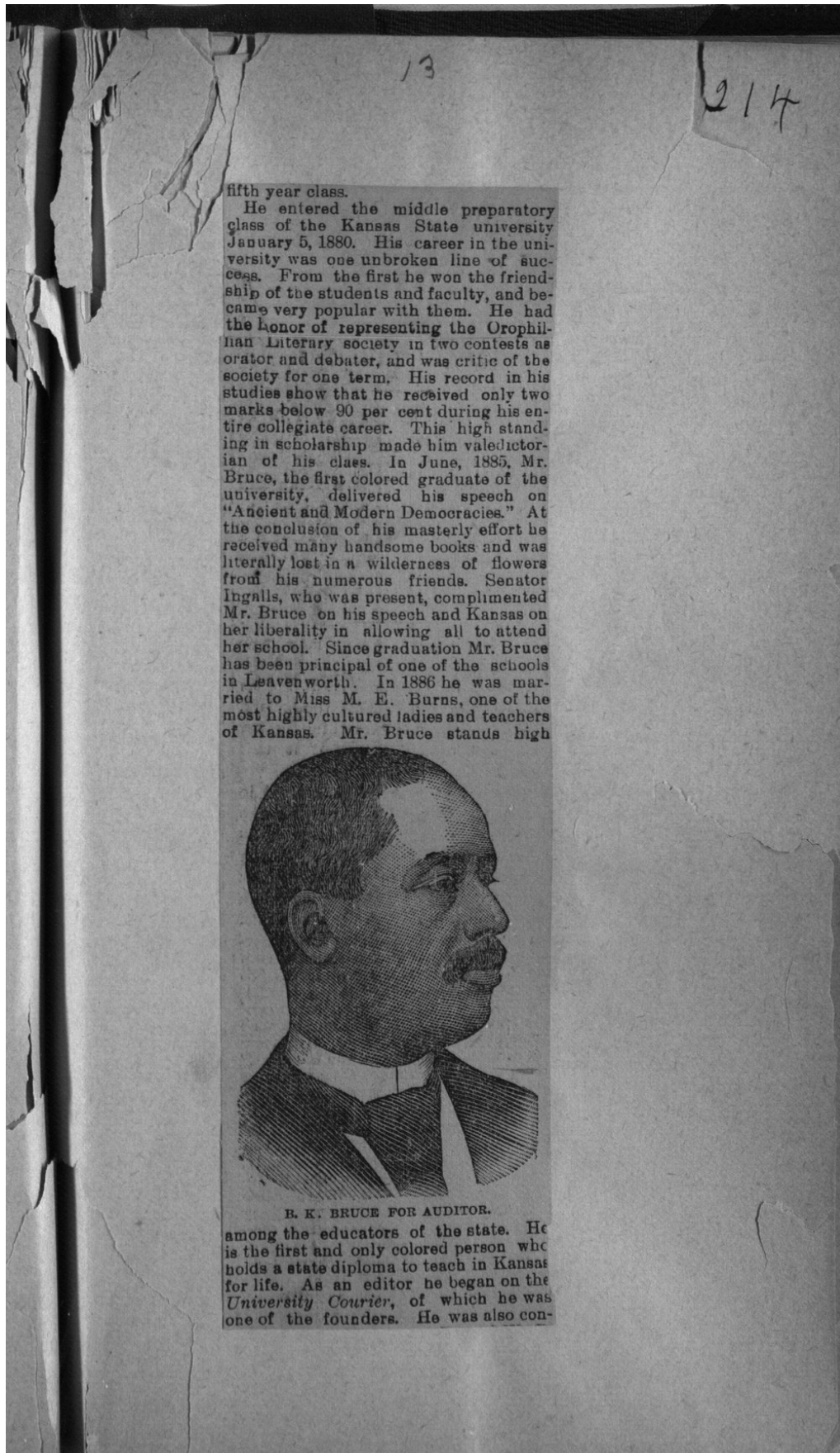
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fifth year class.
He entered the middle preparatory class of the Kansas State university January 5, 1880. His career in the university was one unbroken line of success. From the first he won the friendship of the students and faculty, and became very popular with them. He had the honor of representing the Orophillean Literary society in two contests as orator and debater, and was critic of the society for one term. His record in his studies show that he received only two marks below 90 per cent during his entire collegiate career. This high standing in scholarship made him valedictorian of his class. In June, 1885, Mr. Bruce, the first colored graduate of the university, delivered his speech on "Ancient and Modern Democracies." At the conclusion of his masterly effort he received many handsome books and was literally lost in a wilderness of flowers from his numerous friends. Senator Ingalls, who was present, complimented Mr. Bruce on his speech and Kansas on her liberality in allowing all to attend her school. Since graduation Mr. Bruce has been principal of one of the schools in Leavenworth. In 1886 he was married to Miss M. E. Burns, one of the most highly cultured ladies and teachers of Kansas. Mr. Bruce stands high



B. K. BRUCE FOR AUDITOR.

among the educators of the state. He is the first and only colored person who holds a state diploma to teach in Kansas for life. As an editor he began on the *University Courier*, of which he was one of the founders. He was also con-

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 nected with the *Review*. He and W. B. Townsend were the editors of the *Leavenworth Advocate*, one of the strongest republican papers of the state. The political views of Mr. Bruce as expressed in the *Advocate* and on the stump show that he is a republican, a black republican in every sense of the word. He has always voted the republican ticket—never any other. Mr. Bruce is a fine speaker.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

A Capable Educator Nominated by the Republicans for this Important Position.

J. C. Davis, the republican nominee for state superintendent, was born in Pennsylvania. At 15 years of age he volunteered and was enrolled in the Eighty-fifth Pennsylvania regiment. He saw continuous service until 1865, and was in many of the hardest fought battles of the war. He was twice wounded. For faithful service and valor he was promoted and served for more than a year upon the staff of a brigadier commander. At the close of the war he entered the classical department of Union college, Ohio, and graduated from that institution to become a teacher. He served as principal of the schools of several of the leading cities of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. He came to Kansas in 1880, and has resided at Strong City and Cottonwood Falls since coming to the state. He has served three terms as county superintendent of Chase county, in which position he had ample opportunity to test his abilities as an executive. There is no question about his ability as an educator and he will fill the position with honor and credit to the teachers of the state.

Mr. Davis is a cultured Christian gentleman and a thorough scholar, with experience all along the educational line. His unsurpassed success as superintendent of Chase county for three consecutive terms, finding an institute of fifty nominal members with financial support from the county, and leaving it with an actual membership of 105 active teachers, without the need of county support and with over \$70 in the treasury, proves his superior ability as an organizer and superintendent. The convention made a wise selection and one that greatly strengthens the ticket.